THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) Area off Goa Coast is a part of Kerala-Konkan basin. Three wells, namely, Cochin-I, Kasarged-I and Karwar-I, which were drilled in this basin during 1978-80, proved dry. Drilling of another well namely Cochin High-I has since been completed and the well is under testing.

The basin is under exploration and the quantum of likely crude production will be known only after successful exploratory results.

(d) Presently there is no such plan.

Use of natural gas available in godavari basin for production of electricity

1329. DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for utilising available natural gas in Godavari Basin for the production of electricity in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposals have come from the State Government to this effect, if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) 0.4 MMCMD gas has been committed for the gas based power plant proposed to be set up by the APSEB.

Setting up of a regional office of ONGC in Andhra Pradesh

1330. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up a regional office of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Andhra Pradesh in view of the latest findings of gas deposits in Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): There is no proposal under consideration to set up a regional office in Andhra Pradesh, Government is not concerned in this matter.

Exploration of oil in the country by ONGC

1331. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places in various parts of the country where ONGC is planning to explore oil; and

(b) what is the estimated number of offshore rigs proposed to be deployed during the next three years with salient features of these rigs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) ONGC has planned to continue/extend hydrocarbon exploration work in different areas of.

ONSHORE

Assam
Tripura
Mizoram
Nagaland
Arunachal Pradesh
Bengal
Bihar
Uttar Pradesh

Punjab
Himachal Pradesh
Jammu & Kashmir .. ..
Rajasthan
Gujarat
Madhya Pradesh
Tamil Nadu
Andhra Pradesh
OFFSHORE
West Coast
East Coast

(b) It is proposed to deploy 35 offshore rigs during the next three years as per details below:—

	Owned	Charter-hired	Total
Jackup	8	19	27
Drillship	3	5	8
	11	24	35

Exploration of oil by ONGC in other countries

1332. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to explore oil in other countries in collaboration with foreign firms; and

(b) if so, what are the details in the regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) ONGC has been looking for exploration acreages abroad singly or jointly in prospective basins subject to exploration being economically viable, subject to approval of the Government of India.

Recently ONGC received offers for joint venture from IPC Dubai and BHP Australia for exploration in offshore Malaysia and offshore western Australia respectively. The offer of IPC for exploration in Malaysia offshore was not taken up as the acreage was not considered attractive.

Negotiation by IOC with a private party for office accommodation

1333. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation Limited does not have its own office building in the capital;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons which prompted the Management of IOC Limited to negotiate with a private party, *viz.*, Bharat Hotels, which is in dire financial crisis, for buying a space at an exorbitant cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(c) In order to meet the office requirements of IOC's Northern Region, which could not be met from the space available with IOC then, the Company advertised in 1983 calling for offers. The offers received in response to this were evaluated based on which office space was acquired in World Trade Centre (Bharat Hotels), as their offer was found most competitive.